JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION [redacted]

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

L1

PRECEDENCE	TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
	BOOK	MULTI	SINGLE			
ACTION						
INFO						

FROM:

6595 AEROSPACE TEST WG VANDENBERG AFB, CALIF.

TO SPACE SYSTEMS DIV LOSA CALIF

VWZD-17-9-249

SUBJECT; 8-HOUR LAUNCH FLASH REPORT

1. A SATELLITE VEHICLE CONSISTING OF THOR BOOSTER NO. 350 AND AGENA B ORBITAL STAGE NO. 1133 WAS LAUNCHED ON THE THIRD ATTEMPT FROM VAFB COMPLEX 75-3 PAD 4 AT 1646:18.07 PDT ON 17 SEPTEMBER 1962. THE PRIMARY LAUNCH OBJECTIVE, TO PLACE THE AGENA SATELLITE WITH PAYLOAD IN A NEAR-POLAR ORBIT, WAS ACCOMPLISHED. THE VTS RADAR PLOTBOARD INDICATED THE FOLLOWING APPROXIMATE INJECTION CONDITIONS: ALTITUDE, 130 STATUTE MILES; PAD REFERENCED VELOCITY, 25,700 FPS; ELEVATION FLIGHT PATH ANGLE, APPROXIMATELY 0 DEG; AZIMUTH FLIGHT PATH ANGLE, APPROXIMATELY 173.7 DEG; HOWEVER, THE ORBITAL PERIOD ATTAINED APPEARS TO BE APPROXIMATELY 2.2 MIN HIGHER THAN NOMINAL, BASED ON FIRST PASS

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

By authority of AFR 205-2 7 APR 1960

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO [redacted]

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS; DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS. DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10

DATE | TIME

MONTH | YEAR

WRITER

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PHONE 866-5831 | PAGE NR. 1 | NR. OF PAGES

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION [redacted]

RELEASER

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TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE

DD FORM 1 MAY 55 173 REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 OCT 49, WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED

ACQUISITION AND IS INDICATIVE OF AN EXCESS IN INJECTION VELOCITY OF APPROXIMATELY 200 FPS.

PRELIMINARY VALUES OF SIGNIFICANT LAUNCH EVENTS ARE:

LIFTOFF (1646:18.07 PDT)	ZERO
STEERING INITIATED	91.84 SEC
MECO (S1)	147.1 SEC
VECO	156.1 SEC
ENABLE D1 AND D2 (S2)	152.09 SEC
D1 ON	154.71 SEC
D2 OFF	157.63 SEC
D2 ON	157.84 SEC
D2 OFF	162.94 SEC
SEPARATION COMMAND (S3)	163.71 SEC
SEPARATION COMPLETE	166.1 SEC
ULLAGE ROCKET IGNITION	179.87 SEC
AGENA ENGINE IGNITION	191.88 SEC
AGENA THRUST ATTAINMENT (90 PER CENT PC)	193.06 SEC
AGENA BURNOUT (70 PER CENT PC)	436.72 SEC
AGENA LINK 2 TELEMETRY FADE	N/A
VTS VERLORT RADAR FADE	452 SEC
VTS ACQUISITION BEACON FADE	429 SEC

JOINT MESSAGEFORM - CONTINUATION SHEET | SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: SECRET [redacted]

FROM:

6595 AEROSPACE TEST WG VANDENBERG AFB, CALIF.

VTS TELEMETRY DATA FADE (LINK 1) 489 SEC

IL ALL BOOSTER SUBSYSTEMS PERFORMED SATISFACTORILY AND, IN RESPONSE TO GROUND GUIDANCE SYSTEM COMMANDS, PROVIDED THE REQUIRED COAST APOGEE CONDITIONS.

GROUND GUIDANCE SYSTEM DATA INDICATE THAT BOOSTER COAST APOGEE ALTITUDE WAS 106.86 NM (NOMINAL: 106.86 NM) AND THE VELOCITY WAS 9962 FPS (NOMINAL: 9970 FPS).

IL ALL AGENA VEHICLE SUBSYSTEMS PERFORMED SATISFACTORILY DURING LAUNCH TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TRAJECTORY CONDITIONS FOR ORBITAL INJECTION; HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING DISCREPANCIES WERE NOTED:

THE ORBITAL PERIOD BASED ON FIRST PASS ACQUISITION INDICATED THAT THE INJECTION VELOCITY WAS APPROXIMATELY 200 FPS GREATER THAN NOMINAL. ALTHOUGH THE INTEGRATOR COMBINATION PRODUCED THE SHUTDOWN SIGNAL WHEN THE INDICATED VELOCITY TO BE GAINED WAS ATTAINED, AN ERROR IN VELOCITY MEASUREMENT BY THE ACCELEROMETER-INTEGRATOR COMBINATION IS IMPLIED BY THE EXCESS INJECTION VELOCITY AND NOMINAL THOR COAST APOGEE CONDITIONS.

HEAVY RADAR INTERFERENCE IS RECORDED ON THE TELEMETRY MONITOR FOR BEACON SIGNAL LEVEL FROM

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[redacted]

FROM:

6595 AEROSPACE TEST WG VANDENBERG AFB, CALIF. [redacted]

110 SEC TO 430 SEC. THE RECEIVER ACTIVITY LEVEL INDICATES PEAKS IN EXCESS OF 1400 PPS. MINOR INTERFERENCE IS RECORDED IN THE BEACON TRANSMITTER CHANNEL. VERLORT RADAR MAINTAINED COMPLETE AUTO-TRACK AND REPORTED NO OBSERVABLE DOWN-RANGE INTERFERENCE.

AT THE TIME OF SIGNAL FADE AT VTR, ALL VEHICLE SUBSYSTEMS WERE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY AND THE ORBITAL TIMER WAS SET AT 5461 SEC (STEP 24), IN THE RESET-ON POSITION, IN THE INCREASE MODE, AND ALTERNATE RE-ENTRY DISARM STATE.

IV. THE AEROSPACE GROUND EQUIPMENT FUNCTIONED PROPERLY TO ACCOMPLISH BOOSTER AND ORBITAL STAGE PRE-LAUNCH CHECKOUT EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

A. DURING THE SECOND COUNTDOWN A SECTION OF THE LMEC AIR CONDITIONING DUCT AT THE BASE OF THE MAST WAS DAMAGED DURING SHELTER REMOVAL. THE DUCT WAS REPLACED.

B. DURING THE SECOND COUNTDOWN AGE ELECTRICAL PATCHING PROBLEMS WERE ENCOUNTERED IN THE PAYLOAD AREA.

C. DURING THE FINAL COUNTDOWN THE LANDLINE MEASUREMENT OF AGENA FUEL FILL PRESSURE WAS NON-FUNCTIONAL.

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FROM:

6595 AEROSPACE TEST WG VANDENBERG AFB, CALIF. [redacted]

V. COUNTDOWN

VEHICLE 350/1152 WAS LAUNCHED ON THE THIRD ATTEMPT. THE FINAL COUNTDOWN WAS INITIATED AT 0900 PDT, 17 SEPTEMBER 1962 AND PROCEEDED TO NORMAL LIFTOFF AT 1646:18.07. NO HOLDS WERE IMPOSED AND NO DELAYS OR PROBLEMS WERE ENCOUNTERED.

THE FIRST COUNTDOWN WAS INITIATED AT 0900 PDT ON 14 SEPTEMBER 1962. IN TASK 4 IT BECAME NECESSARY TO REPLACE THE THOR DESTRUCT RECEIVER NO. 2. DURING INSTALLATION OF THE DESTRUCT PACKAGE THE AGENA INTEGRATOR FUNCTIONED ABNORMALLY. AFTER 20 MIN OF EVAL EVALUATION THE COUNTDOWN WAS CANCELLED DUE TO INSUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE THE VEHICLE FOR LAUNCH WITHIN THE TIME WINDOW. NORMAL OPERATION OF THE INTEGRATOR WAS RESTORED AND THE COUNTDOWN WAS RESCHEDULED FOR 0900 PDT 15 SEPTEMBER BUT WAS CANCELLED BEFORE INITIATION DUE TO A PAYLOAD PROBLEM.

THE SECOND COUNTDOWN WAS INITIATED AT 0900 15 SEPTEMBER AND PROCEEDED TO TASK 10 (T-125 MIN) WHEN THE AGENA LIFEBOAT SYSTEM SOLENOID VALVE FAILED TO FUNCTION ON COMMAND. THE COUNTDOWN WAS CANCELLED

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FROM:

6595 AEROSPACE TEST WG VANDENBERG AFB, CALIF. [redacted]

AT 1425 AND RESCHEDULED FOR THE FOLLOWING DAY.

PAD DAMAGE WAS NORMAL AND NORMAL TURN-AROUND SCHEDULE IS EXPECTED.

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